

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[71] Each time data, in the form of data blocks protected by code checks, must be reformatted, the original data is broken into new data blocks and a new code check is calculated from, and combined with, each new data block, but the new data blocks 5 and new code checks are both reconstituted versions of the original data blocks and the original code checks. Consequently, the data is never left without protection. In one embodiment, an ingress encoder recomputes an ingress code check from an original data block and its associated header. An egress encoder computes an egress code check from the egress header for an outgoing data block reformatted from the original 10 data block and the ingress code check. The outgoing information is then assembled from the egress header, the outgoing data block and the newly computed egress code check.